

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A computing device comprising:  
2 an operating system;  
3 a pre-operating system software program;  
4 an operating system present software program;  
5 a protected storage medium configured to enable the pre-  
6 operating system software program to pass an information to the operating  
7 system present software program.
- 1 2. The computing device of claim 1 further comprising:  
2 a first interface to provide the pre-operating system software  
3 program access to the protected storage medium; and  
4 a second interface to provide the operating system present  
5 software program access to the protected storage medium.
- 1 3. The computing device of claim 1 wherein the protected storage  
2 medium is a non-volatile re-writable memory device.
- 1 4. The computing device of claim 1 wherein the protected storage  
2 medium is further configured to enable the pre-operating system software  
3 program to securely pass the information to a second pre-operating system  
4 software program.
- 1 5. The computing device of claim 4 wherein the information is passed  
2 during the booting of the computing device.
- 1 6. The computing device of claim 1 wherein the protected storage  
2 medium is further configured to enable the pre-operating system software  
3 program to securely pass the information to the operating system present  
4 software program.

- 1 7. The computing device of claim 6 wherein the information is passed  
2 during the booting of the computing device.
- 1 8. The computing device of claim 1 wherein the protected storage  
2 medium is further configured to enable the operating system present software  
3 program to securely pass the information to a second operating system  
4 present software program.
- 1 9. The computing device of claim 1 wherein the protected storage  
2 medium is further configured to enable the operating system present software  
3 program to securely pass the information to the pre-operating system  
4 software program.
- 1 10. The computing device of claim 9 wherein the information is retrieved  
2 by the pre-operating system software program after rebooting of the  
3 computing device.
- 1 11. A method comprising:  
2 providing a first interface to a protected storage medium to  
3 enable a pre-operating system software program access to the protected  
4 storage medium; and  
5 providing a second interface to the protected storage medium to  
6 enable an operating system present software program access to the protected  
7 storage medium.
- 1 12. The method of claim 11 wherein the protected storage medium is a  
2 non-volatile re-writeable memory device.
- 1 13. The method of claim 11 further comprising:  
2 enabling the pre-operating system software program to send an  
3 information to a second pre-operating system software program via the  
4 protected storage medium.

1 14. The method of claim 11 further comprising:  
2 enabling the pre-operating system software program to send an  
3 information to the operating system present software program via the  
4 protected storage medium.

1 15. The method of claim 14 wherein enabling comprises:  
2 enabling the pre-operating system software program to store the  
3 information to the protected storage medium; and  
4 enabling the operating system present software program to  
5 retrieve the information from the protected storage medium.

1 16. The method of claim 15 wherein the information is stored during the  
2 booting of the computing device.

1 17. The method of claim 11 further comprising:  
2 enabling the operating system present software program to  
3 securely pass an information to a second operating system present software  
4 program via the protected storage medium.

1 18. The method of claim 11 further comprising:  
2 enabling the operating system present software program to  
3 securely pass an information to the pre-operating system software program.

1 19. The method of claim 18 wherein enabling comprises:  
2 enabling the operating system present software program to  
3 store the information to the protected storage medium; and  
4 enabling the pre-operating system software program to retrieve  
5 the information from the protected storage medium.

1 20. The method of claim 19 wherein the information is retrieved by the  
2 pre-operating system software program after rebooting of the computing  
3 device.

1 21. A machine readable medium having instructions stored thereon which  
2 when executed by a processor cause the processor to perform operations  
3 comprising:

4 providing a first interface to a protected storage medium to  
5 enable a pre-operating system software program access to the protected  
6 storage medium; and

7 providing a second interface to the protected storage medium to  
8 enable an operating system present software program access to the protected  
9 storage medium.

1 22. The machine readable medium of claim 21 wherein the instructions  
2 cause the processor to perform further operations comprising:

3 enabling the pre-operating system software program to securely  
4 pass an information to a second pre-operating system software program via  
5 the protected storage medium.

1 23. The machine readable medium of claim 21 wherein the instructions  
2 cause the processor to perform further operations comprising:

3 enabling the pre-operating system software program to securely  
4 pass an information to the operating system present software program via the  
5 protected storage medium.

1 24. The machine readable medium of claim 21 wherein the instructions  
2 cause the processor to perform further operations comprising:

3 enabling the operating system present software program to  
4 securely pass an information to a second operating system present software  
5 program via the protected storage medium.

1 25. The machine readable medium of claim 21 wherein the instructions  
2 cause the processor to perform further operations comprising:

3 enabling the operating system present software program to  
4 securely pass an information to the pre-operating system software program.